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For a whole column, per quarter, \$37.50

Commercial Advertiser.

(For the Commercial Advertiser.)

Religion.

I slept—Ah! what a blessed sleep!
O night of happy dreams!
The stars, the sun, the fancies keep
Dear carnival, and dance and leap
In luminous rainbow beams.

Who sent that dream? I saw the gleam
Of her eyes when my eyelids closed,
And I know that she was the wintry—
I know the power of the spell.

I rise again—O glorious morn!
Spanked with diamond dew—
Rested with the rays of Orient white
Placed from the opening eyes of Light.

Who owns the morn? She would adorn
The front of Heaven; her eyes
Illumine all wherever they fall—
Her bairn is a broad sunrise.

The morning sings—O! hear that song!
Tis the very voice of Heaven!

And the breathing breezes here along
The anthem, mingled with the song
Of the choir, whose praise was given.

Who sang the air? Her voice was there—
She sang the song, and sang the theme—

For purity reigns in all its strains,

And her goodness smiles supreme.

So I sleep and wake, and still sleep again—
One pearl of Angel light—

Safe from folly and fear and pain

So long as my Empire shall remain

Glorifying King, dear.

Her name to tell—Ah! cherish it well—

With Mercy came her gracious name—

Religion? Oh! answer—Woe!

Hawaii, January, 1861.

Rural Sketches

Of the Hawaiian Islands.

HABITS AND CUSTOMS OF THE HAWAIIANS.

At a short distance beyond Kaneohe, the path leads along the shore. The whole scene is highly picturesque. The beach is composed of a very fine sand and is bordered by a series of rugged, winding veins of basaltic rock in low and smooth beds. On the land side, and near the surf, stand a few native dwellings, over which the coco-nut tree suspends its fantastic and beautiful foliage; seaward the foam-crested breakers come rolling in with the speed of the swiftest race-horse, and a voice of thunder, as they break on the beach close to the feet of the traveler.

While journeying along this shore I met a singular looking object. His face was bronzed by a tropical sun, his eyes were bloodshot, and a short wavy hair covered his hairy, gaunt body. He had a long nose, his matted hair and beard, his rapid steps, almost induced me to believe he had just escaped from a retreat for the insane. He was once a white man; but a four years' intercourse with the most debased and wretched of the natives had turned him into a complete savage. He could hardly read, much less write his own name. The poor man was a felon on the enlightened State of Connecticut, for from that part of the United States he originally came. He returned to this island some time, this summer. I was most surprised. His downcast eyes indicated a sense of shame of his abject condition. His personal mind and appearance established more firmly than ever, in my own mind, the theory that the white man, severed from the civilizing influences of society, is capable of becoming a more debased wretch than the savage or aborigines among whom he lives. Such a scene is calculated to draw tears from the eyes of angels, and to fill the bosom of any living man with sorrow for the brutal condition of many of his species. I have seen the natives of the Sandwich Islands, and they are numerous on the islands scattered over the wide Pacific Ocean.

This portion of the shore abounds with a large number of singular coral reefs. They are of a circular form, and vary from a few rods to a mile in diameter. They are usually elevated to within a few inches of medium tide, at which time the natives reach them in canoes, and wade over them to procure shell-fish. These reefs are mostly dead reefs, and are situated near the shore, and are raised near the surface of the ocean, they retreat so precipitately that their bases can hardly be fathomed; and there is sufficient depth of water around them for any purpose.

Beyond these reefs there are numerous fishponds. Their dimensions range from one to a hundred acres. Their relative size is indicative of the wealth and power of their respective owners. The smaller ponds belong to the poorer of the native subjects; the larger are owned by the king and his principal nobles. They are formed simply by enclosing a wall of coral over a portion of the reefs lining the shore. The huge walls inclosing the largest are of ancient date, and were raised when feudal chieftains could command the bodies, souls, and lives of the common people; but now, portions of them were beaten down by the ever-rolling tides. Many of these ponds are located at some distance from the shore, and supplied by fresh water from the neighboring mountains, and the shores of the ground water feeds abound. Next to their large dimensions, they are prized by the natives, for their contents are highly valued as an indispensable article of food, and sacredly guarded; but, after all their precautions, some thief will sometimes come along in the night and extract a few of their finny tenants for his own immediate use. Almost invariably, however, he gets detected. With most of the Hawaiians, as with the old Spartans, the crime consists in detection, not in the theft. Those犯人 are not unfrequently a son of much grief to the owner of the fishponds, who are often compelled to pay a fine, and are demanded upon his person. But this does not intimate that they are ungrateful; for they do not intend that they are ungrateful; but, after all their precautions, some thief will sometimes come along in the night and extract a few of their finny tenants for his own immediate use. Almost invariably, however, he gets detected. 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